

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USCINCEUR INFO JCS CSA CNO CSAF CMC
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QUOTE S E C R E T 0116 FEB 75

SUBJ: MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT (C)

REF: A. USCINCEUR ECJ4/7-SAFT 2857, DTG 061522Z FEB 75;

B. USDAO CAIRO 0652/111450Z OCT 74

1. (S) THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION FOR CONGRESS CONCERNING
TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL PROVIDES FOR ASSISTANCE
EITHER IN THE US OR AT MILITARY SCHOOLS OR IN EGYPT. DATT/AIRA
IS SCHEDULED TO INFORM THE MINISTER OF WAR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
DETERMINATION ON OR ABOUT 17 FEB 1975. THE OCCASION WILL PRESENT
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MOD PREFERENCES FOR TRAINING
ARRANGEMENTS. DATT/AIRA WOULD, OF COURSE, QUALIFY ANY SUCH
DISCUSSION WITH NECESSARY CAVEATS TO PRECLUDE A MISUNDERSTANDING
OF WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO DO TO SATISFY EGYPTIAN REQUIREMENTS. BELIEVE
A FRANK AND OPEN DISCUSSION WOULD ESTABLISH A BETTER FRAMEWORK FOR
OUR FUTURE ASSISTANCE. IT IS THE OPINION OF DATT/AIRA THAT THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION WILL BE VIEWED BY
THE MINISTER OF WAR AS A POSITIVE INDICATION OF US INTENTIONS TO
NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPTIAN MILITARY. THE SUGGESTED

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APPROACH WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY AT THE ONSET TO ENSURE

COORDINATION AT THE POLITICAL/MILITARY LEVEL AND AVOID THE PITFALLS ASSOCIATED WITH A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD NOT PARALLEL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREA.

2. (S) IN THE ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATE PUBLICATIONS AND AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS WITH EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO REF A. REF B OUTLINES IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT IS BELIEVED SHOULD BE OUR DESIRED OBJECTIVES. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION FOR CONGRESS, BELIEVE OUR PLANNING SHOULD AVOID SITUATION WHICH EGYPTIANS COULD MISCONSTRUE AS INDICATING WE ARE PROFFERING SOLUTIONS RATHER THAN RESPONDING TO THEIR REQUESTS. AM AWARE OF PAST EXPERIENCES WHEN ATTACHES OFFERED COURSES WHICH THE EGYPTIANS DID NOT WANT OR COULD NOT USE. GIVEN EGYPTIAN SENSIBILITIES AND IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP, IT IS BELIEVED THAT WHEREVER POSSIBLE WE SHOULD DEVELOP A PROGRAM BASED ON EGYPTIAN PREFERENCES.

3. (S) IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE INITIAL REQUEST FROM EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES WAS FOR RANGER/COMMANDO TRAINING WHICH, BY DEFINITION, IS PRECLUDED IF WE ARE TO OFFER ONLY NON-COMBAT SKILLS. THERE IS, OF COURSE,, THE POSSIBILITY THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD WELCOME TRAINING IN OTHER AREAS, BUT OUR LACK OF ON STATION KNOWLEDGE OF OBJECTIVES AND COURSES, OTHER THAN THE USUAL PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS,LIMITS OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE INPUT AT THIS TIME.

4. (S) WE DO, OF COURSE, RECOMMEND OFFERING EGYPTIANS ATTENDANCE TO COMMAND AND STAFF COURSES OF ALL THREE SERVICES AND BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN OFFER WOULD BE ACCEPTED. IN KEEPING WITH THE THRUST OF REF B, HOWEVER, IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE SEGMENTATION OF AN OVERALL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL NOT ACHIEVE OVERALL OBJECTIVES WHICH WE ARE SEEKING. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MATTER OF DEVELOPING US-EGYPTIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD BE EXAMINED AS A TOTAL PACKAGE AND THAT TRAINING ASSISTANCE IN THE NON-COMBAT SKILLED CATEGORY SHULD BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE OVERALL PACKAGE.

5. (S) BASED ON AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF WAR, GEN GAMASSY, WE COULD NOT, FOR INSTANCE, RECOMMEND IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF OUR PROGRAM ORIENTATION TRAINING TOURS IN THE US. ALTHOUGH SUCH TOURS WILL EVENTUALLY BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, INITIALLY WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE DV TOURS AT THE CJCS AND CHIEF OF STAFF LEVEL
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OF EACH OF THE SERVICES ONCE THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT HAS VISITED THE US. SOME PROGRESS MUST BE ACHIEVED ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT WHICH WILL SATISFY INTERIM EGYPTIAN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES BEFORE VISITS CAN BE SUGGESTED. ONCE SENIOR EGYPTIAN MILITARY LEADERS HAVE RE-ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH OUR US COUNTERPARTS, WE WIL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER NUMBER OF VISITS AT EVERY LEVEL.

6. (S) RECOMMENDATION: THAT DATT/AIRA BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS
OVERALL SUBJECT OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE DURING
ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE MINISTER OF WAR OF THE RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL
DETERMINATION. DISCUSSION, WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY
TO COVER WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, WOULD BE EXPLORATORY IN NATURE AND
DUE CAUTION EXERCISED WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT BEING MADE.

7. (U) THIS MESSAGE CONCURRED IN BY AMBASSADOR.

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